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THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!

HEY!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

HAS **VENOM**
BECOME
KINDER AND
GENTLER?



READ OUR
LIPS, SPIDEY--
NO WAY!



BOMB BLAST SUIT
Shields you from explosions.



FLASHLIGHT
Illuminates underground passages.



MINES
Set them in key locations. Up to three per screen.



INGRAM MAC-11
Semi-automatic submachine gun. Silencer optional.

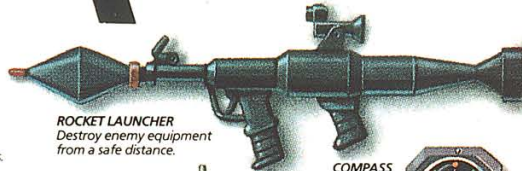
GEAR UP



BARETTA M92F
Single-action hand gun. Silencer optional.



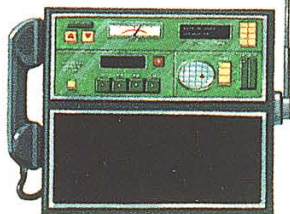
ANTIDOTE
Neutralizes poisons.



ROCKET LAUNCHER
Destroy enemy equipment from a safe distance.



BODY ARMOR
Will reduce damage by 50%.



TRANSCIVER
This is your most valuable piece of equipment. With it, you'll receive vital information from headquarters telling you where to find essential weapons and supplies.



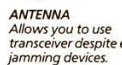
MINE DETECTOR
Discovers location of enemy mines.



COMPASS
Helps you navigate through uncharted deserts.



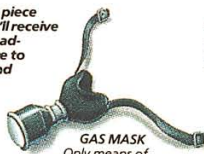
IRON GLOVE
Allows you to locate hidden doors with a single punch.



ANTENNA
Allows you to use transceiver despite enemy jamming devices.



GRENADE LAUNCHER
Launch deadly grenades into strategic locations.



GAS MASK
Only means of survival in gassed out areas.



INFRARED GOGGLES
Used to detect infrared alarm sensors.



BINOCULARS
Allow you to see one screen ahead without risking your life.



PLASTIC EXPLOSIVES
For perfectly timed explosions.

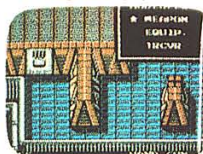
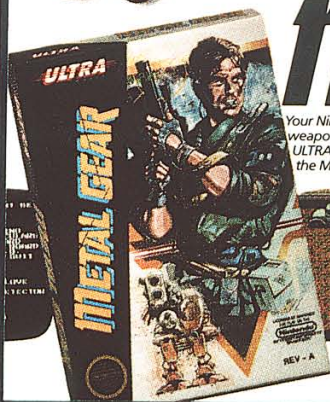


REMOTE CONTROL MISSILE
Guide it with your control pad.

METAL GEAR™

Your Nintendo Entertainment System® has never seen a weapon as destructive as METAL GEAR. To help you destroy it, ULTRAGAMES has supplied the equipment. To get through the METAL GEAR maze, you'll have to supply the wits.

ULTRA™



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AT THE FOREST HILLS BOARDING HOUSE OWNED AND RUN BY MAY PARKER--

-- HER YOUNG NEPHEW, PETER, HAS A PRACTICAL THOUGHT...

GOTTA ACT NORMAL! OOO



OKAY, SO EDDIE BROCK ESCAPED FROM PRISON! SO THE LIVING COSTUME HE WEARS GIVES HIM INCREDIBLE POWER AS VENOM!

SO HE KNOWS I'M SPIDER-MAN AND HAS SWORN TO KILL ME!



HE STILL DOESN'T KNOW WHERE I LIVE, AND THAT SHOULD GIVE ME TIME TO FIGURE A WAY OUT OF THIS MESS!



TILL THEN I'VE GOT TO ACT LIKE NOTHING'S WRONG, SO I WON'T WORRY AUNT MAY. THAT'S WHY I AGREED TO GO SHOPPING WITH HER THIS MORNING.



I CAN THINK ABOUT BROCK ON THE WAY.

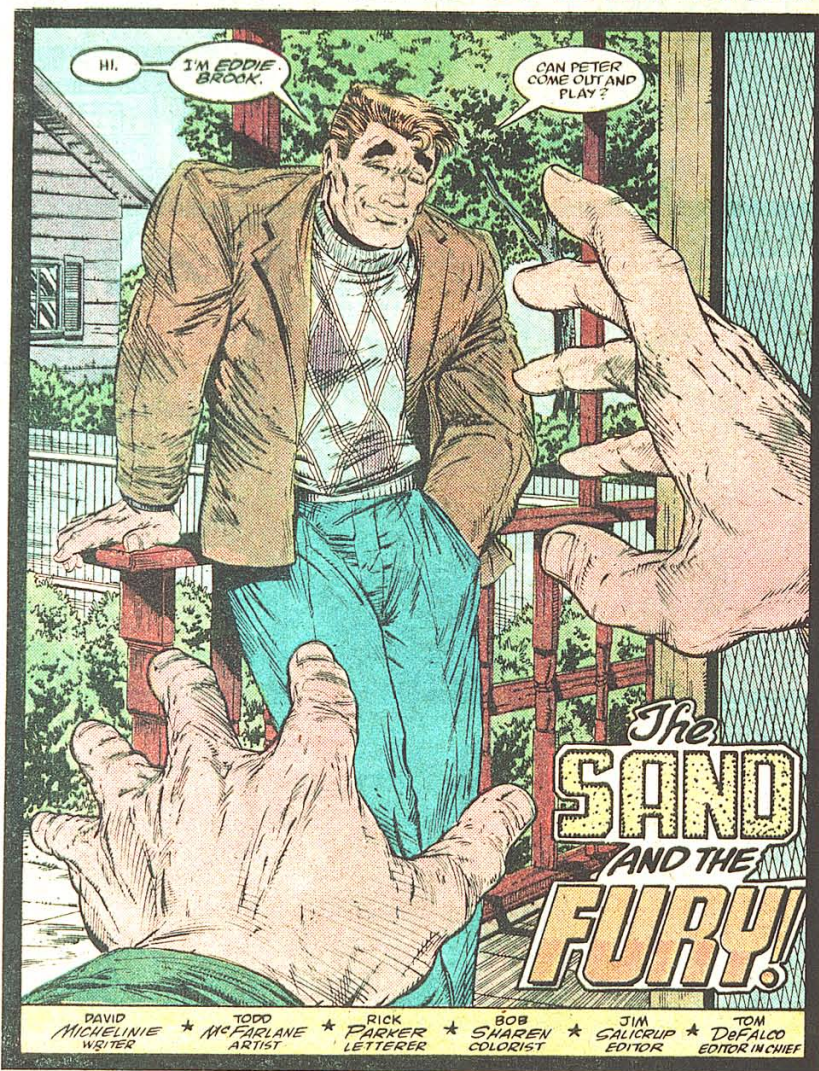
AFTER YOU, PRETTY LADY. CAN'T KEEP THOSE SALES CLERKS WAITING, YOU--



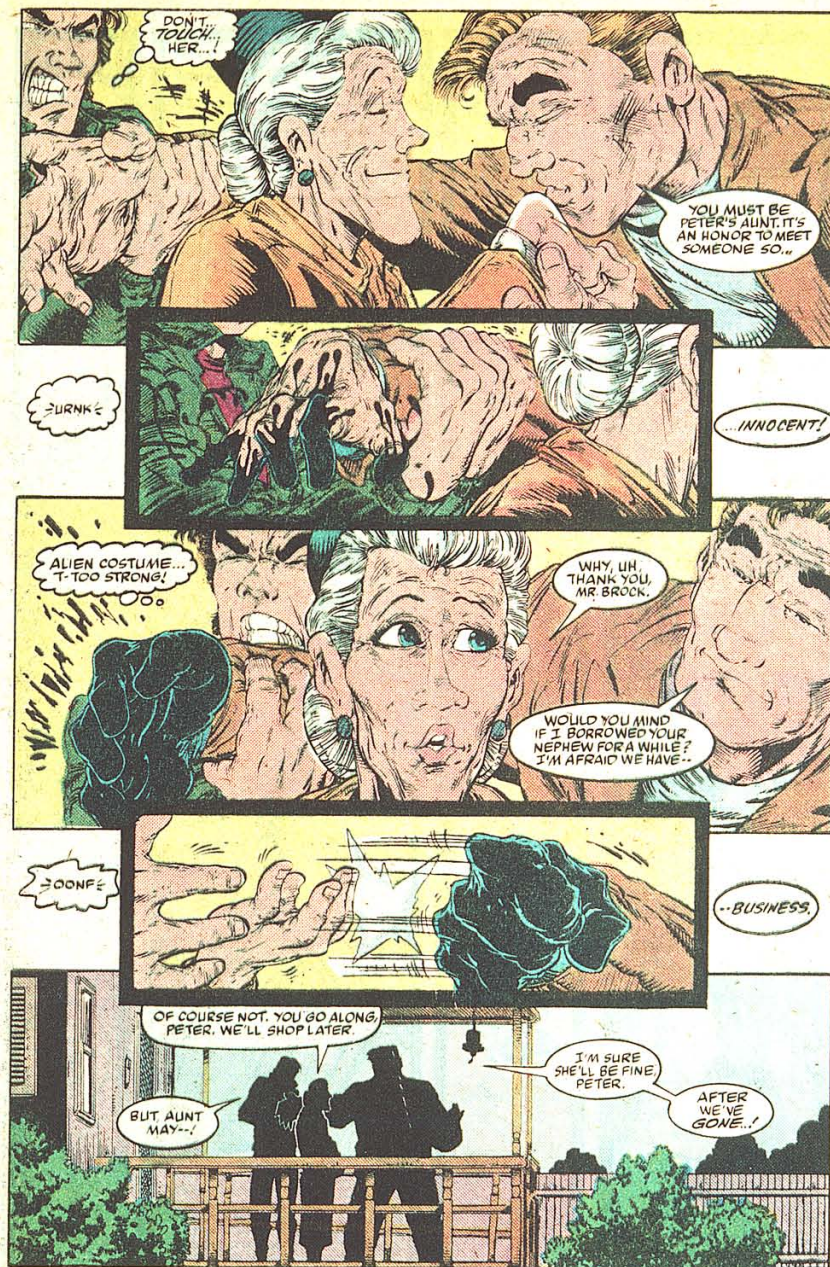
--NO!

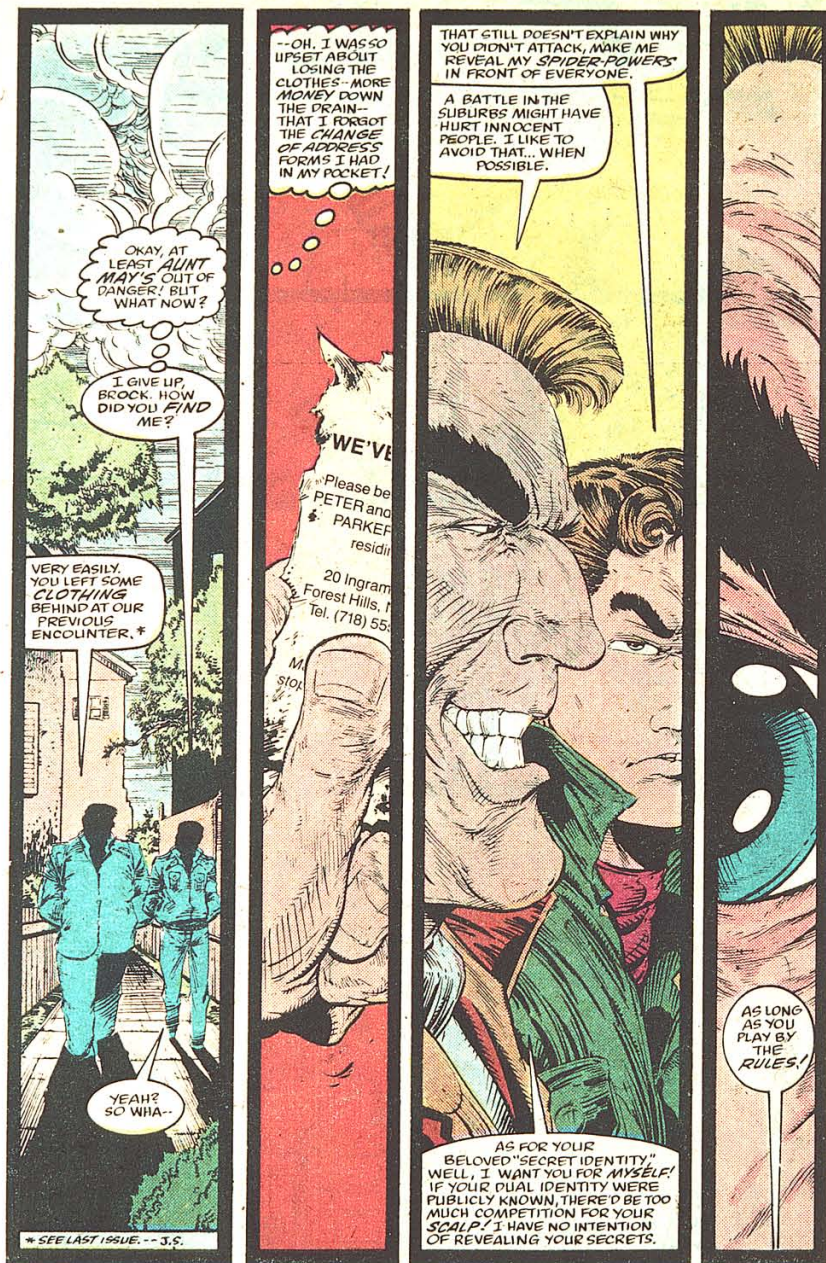
TM & © 2004 MARVEL

Stan Lee
PRESENTS: **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®**



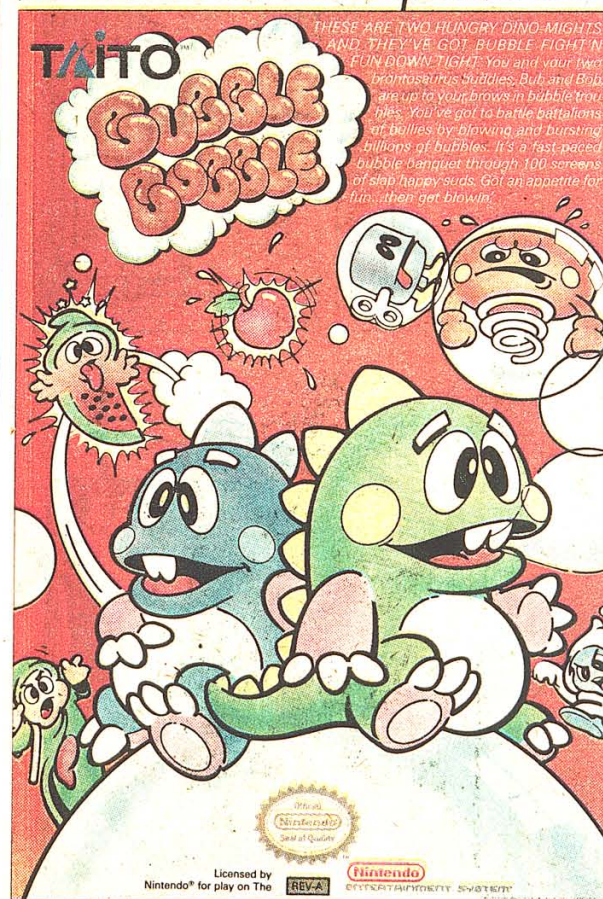
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN Vol. 1 No. 7, July 1989 (ISSN 0721-5232) Published by MARVEL COMICS, James F. Gailor, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing, Milton Schiffman, Vice President, Production, OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 38 PARK AVENUE, SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10016. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, MARVEL COMICS, 38 PARK AVENUE, SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10016. CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, NY AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES. Published monthly except for alternate months in July and August. Copyright © 1989 by Marvel Enterprises, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$1.60 per copy in the U.S. and \$1.25 in Canada. Subscription rate \$12.00 for 12 issues, Canada and foreign: \$14.00. Printed in the U.S.A. No liability for any of the names, characters, persons, or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any similarity is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its contents reproduced in any form without the prior written permission of Marvel Enterprises, Inc. The names MARVEL and the distinctive likenesses thereof are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO SUBSCRIPTION DEPARTMENT, MARVEL COMICS, 38 PARK AVENUE, SOUTH NEW YORK, NY 10016.





BUBBLE BOBBLE IS DINO-MIGHT!

(FOR YOUR NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.)



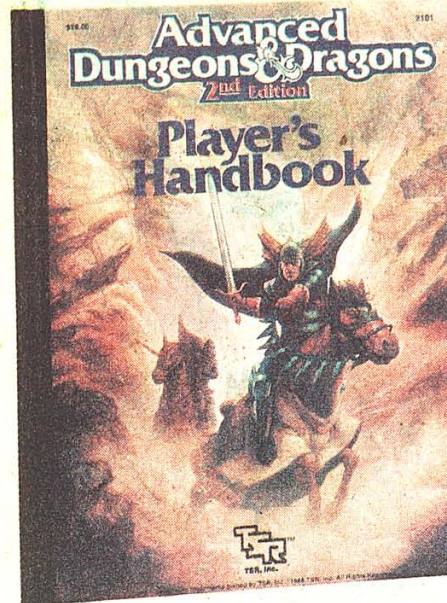
These are two hungry dino-mights and they've got bubble fight'n fun down tight.

Bubble Bobble™ is totally addictive action. Computer Entertainer Magazine says "it's impossible to resist... you want to play over and over again." Bubble Bobble™ has been Europe's #1 game for over 3 months. You'll scramble through 100 screens of laughs as your brontosaurus buddies, Bub and Bob, blow you away with endless action. If you're lookin' for fun, these dudes are the ones.

For more arcade quality fun at home, grab Taito's other action packed hits for the Nintendo Entertainment System®. Operation Wolf®, the awesome prisoner rescue mission and the world's number 1 arcade game. Renegade™, the fast paced street-style Karate brawl. And coming soon, Sky Shark®, the arcade's meanest air battle.

TAITO
THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN.™

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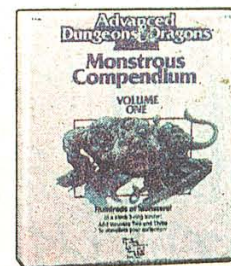
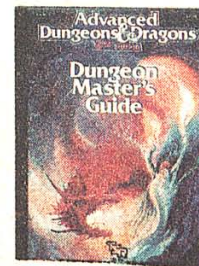
YOUR TOUGHEST OPPONENT SHOULDN'T BE THE RULEBOOK.

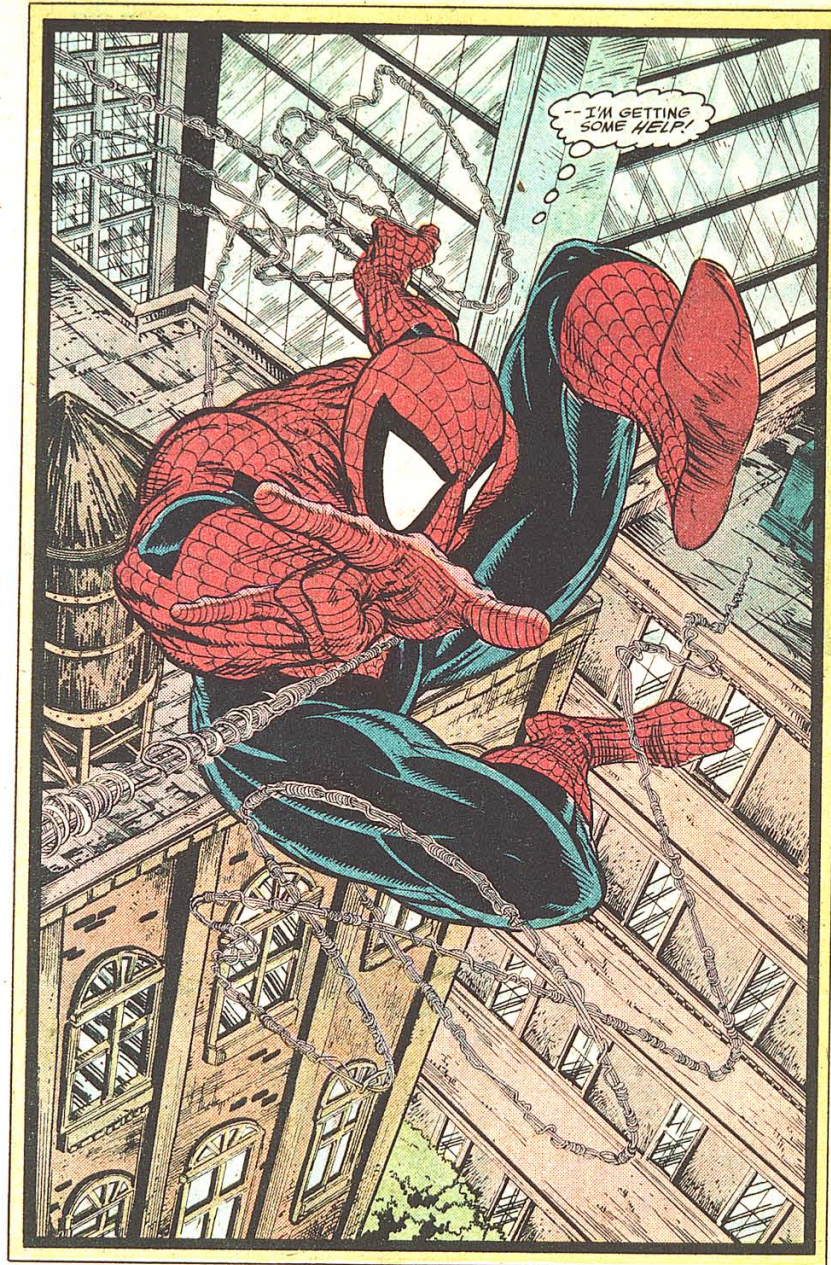
We think it's time that the rulebooks were on your side. Introducing **ADVANCED DUNGEONS & DRAGONS®** 2nd Edition game system, the revised, player-friendly edition of the world's most popular role-playing game.

After 15,000 letters, years of research, and many hours of playtesting, the game system you've been waiting for is here. We've revised our handbooks to be more concise and better indexed. Awkward mechanics have been cleaned up, and rule changes have been made to improve play. Revised tables, charts and stats make for a smoother game, and powerful new graphics create vivid images for campaign play. In short, the best just got better.

But fear not. **AD&D®** 2nd Edition products are designed to improve your game. All **AD&D** 2nd Edition products are compatible with existing **AD&D** products.

So arm yourself with the new **AD&D®** 2nd Edition *Player's Handbook*. With what's in store for you on your journey, the last thing you need is another opponent.



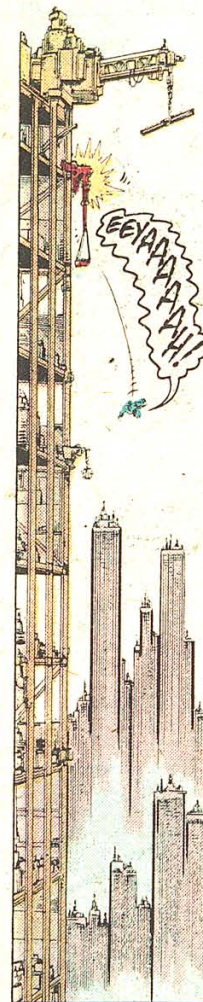


8

MANHATTAN.

MOMENTS LATER.

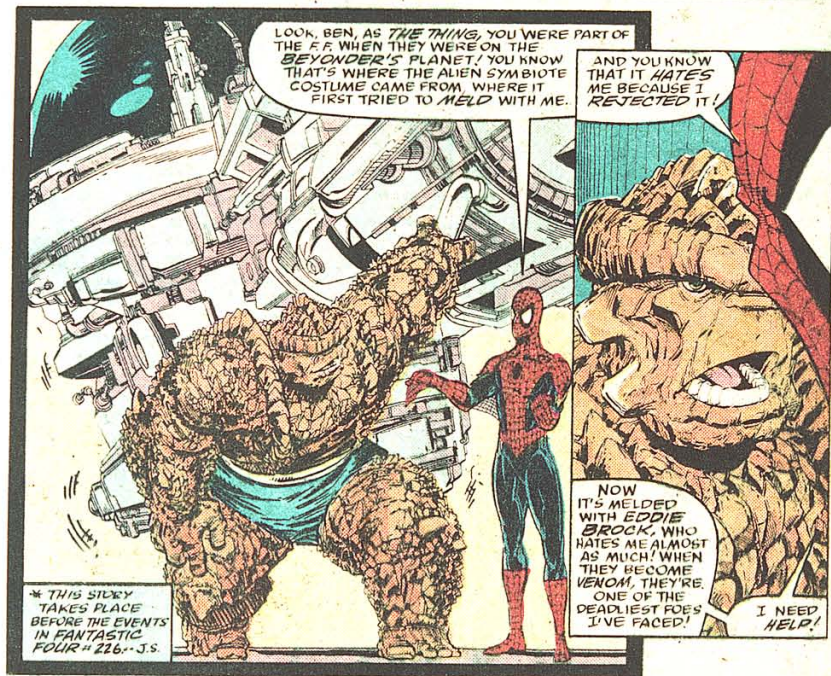
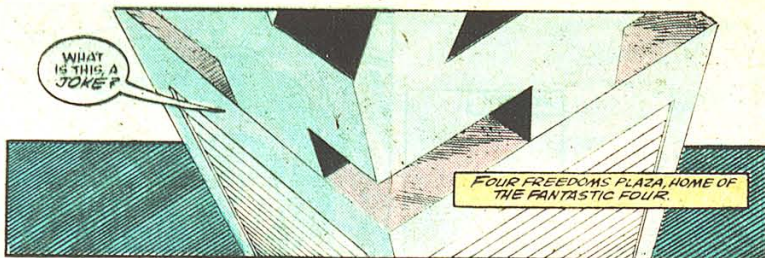
A HARPLESS HARDSHAT FALLS TO HIS DEATH.



NEARLY.

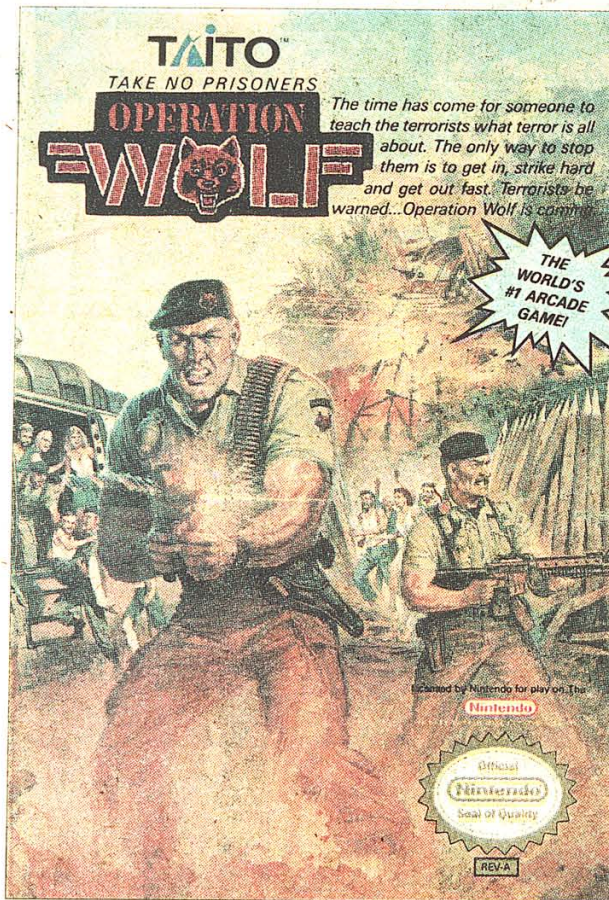


9



TAKE NO PRISONERS.

OPERATION WOLF® FOR YOUR NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM.

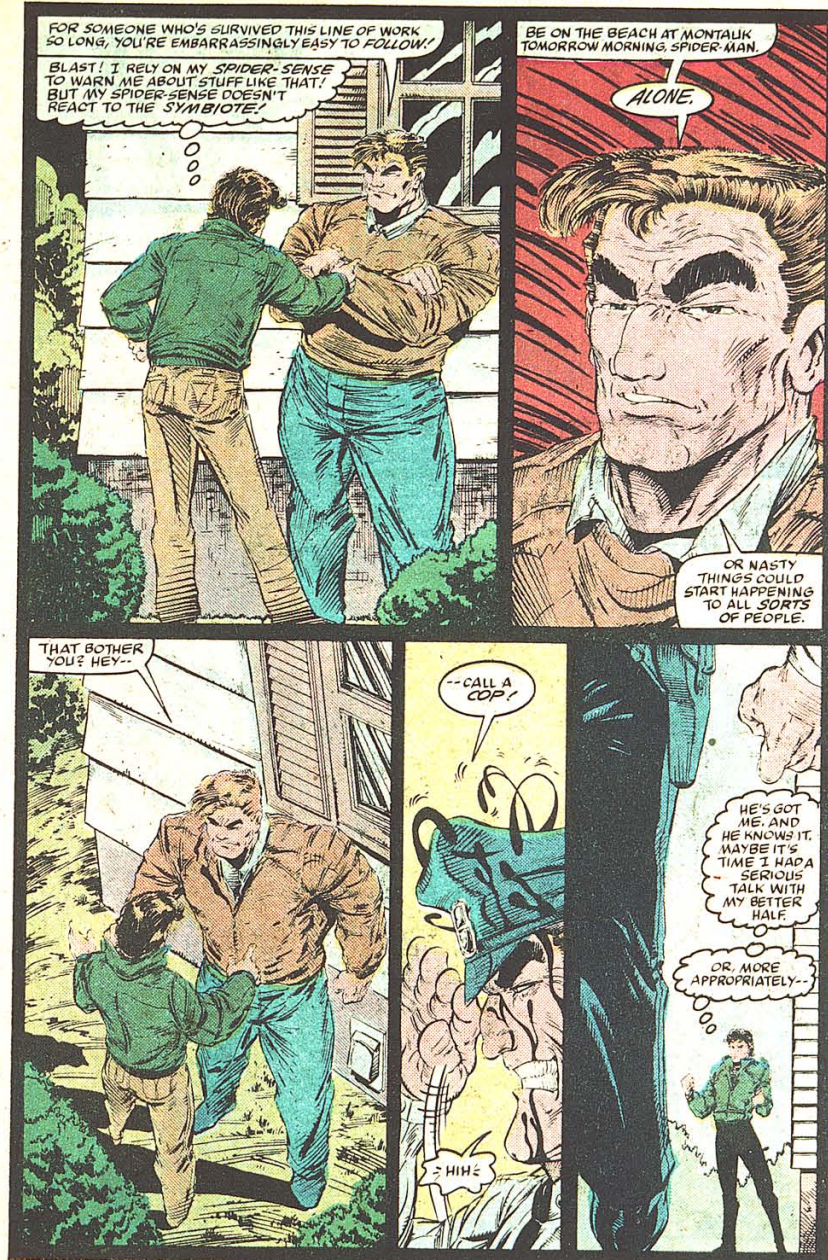


Now you can thrill to the world's best arcade game right on your Nintendo Entertainment System.® Operation Wolf® takes you on a prisoner rescue mission you'll never forget. Mind-blowing arcade quality graphics put you behind enemy lines where you must destroy the terrorists and save helpless prisoners. One play and you'll know why it's the world's number 1 arcade game. Operation Wolf® uses Nintendo Zapper® or standard controller.

For more arcade quality fun at home, grab Taito's other action packed hits for the Nintendo Entertainment System.® Renegade,™ the fast paced street-style Karate brawl; Bubble Bobble,™ the totally addictive dinosaur delight. And coming soon, Sky Shark,® the arcade's meanest, most explosive high-flying World War II air battle.

TAITO
THE ONLY GAME IN TOWN.™

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IN COLD, CLEAR PROSE, PETER PARKER TELLS HIS WIFE WHAT HE INTENDS TO DO THE NEXT DAY. WITH EQUAL DIRECTNESS, SHE RESPONDS:



IT'S NOT THAT EASY. THINK WHAT IT WOULD MEAN: THE COMPLETE LOSS OF PRIVACY, THE LAWSUITS FROM PEOPLE WHOSE PROPERTY WAS DAMAGED WHILE I WAS SAVING THE WORLD--

YOU'RE CRAZY! TO HECK WITH YOUR SECRET IDENTITY! LET'S CALL IN THE MARINES!

-- THE POSSIBLY FATAL SHOCK TO AUNT MAY.



BESIDES, SOMETIMES THE ONE THING THAT MAKES BEING SPIDER-MAN BEARABLE IS BEING ABLE TO ESCAPE BACK TO MY RELATIVELY NORMAL LIFE AS PETER PARKER. THAT'S PRECIOUS TO ME. ALMOST AS PRECIOUS AS YOU ARE.

AND YOU'D BECOME A TARGET FOR EVERY VENGEFUL LUNATIC I EVER FOUGHT!



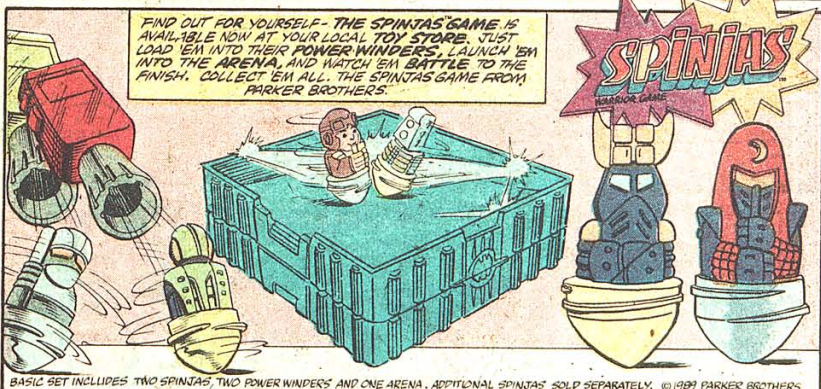
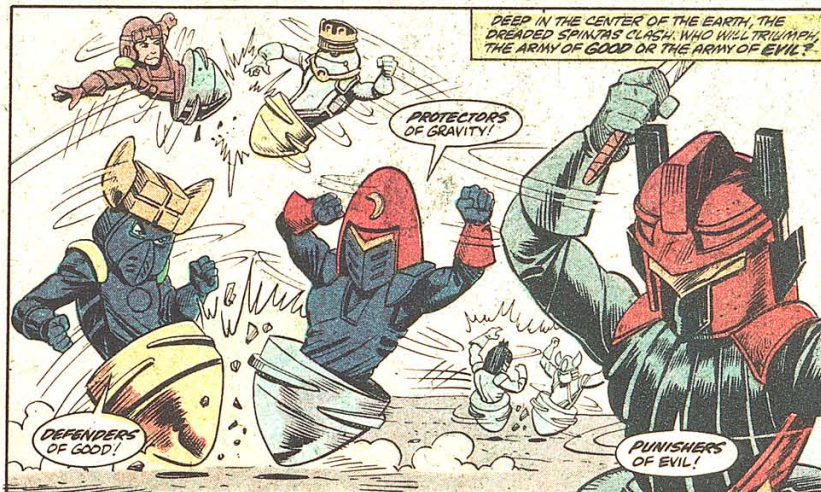
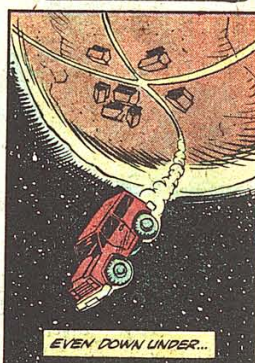
I... I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT. BUT I'M SO FRIGHTENED FOR YOU. PLEASE, DARLING, GET SOME KIND OF HELP? FOR ME?

ALL RIGHT, M.J. FOR YOU.

THAT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH PROMISE TO KEEP. HOW CAN I GET HELP IN A WAY THAT VENOM WON'T KNOW I'M GETTING IT?!



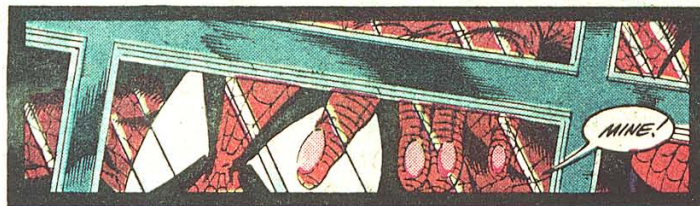
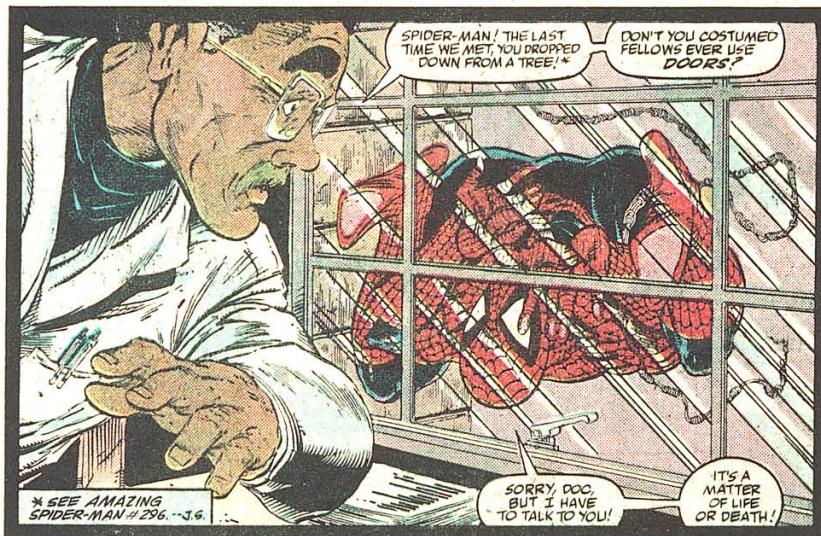
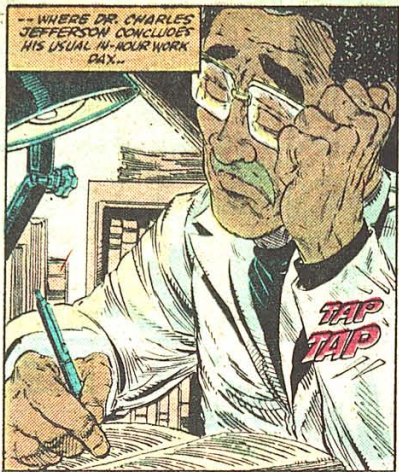
TALES OF THE SPINJAS



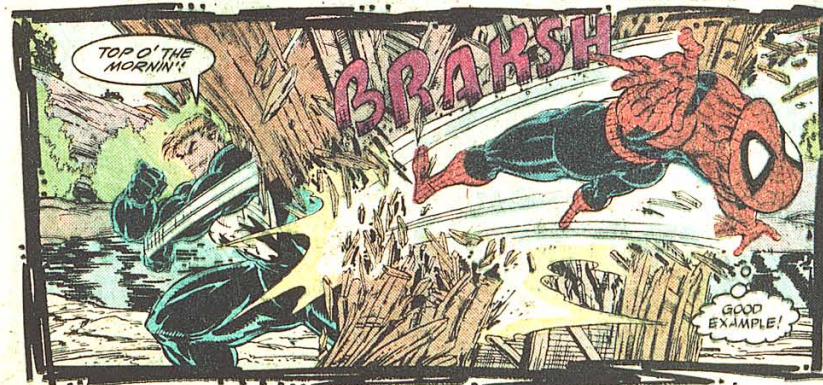
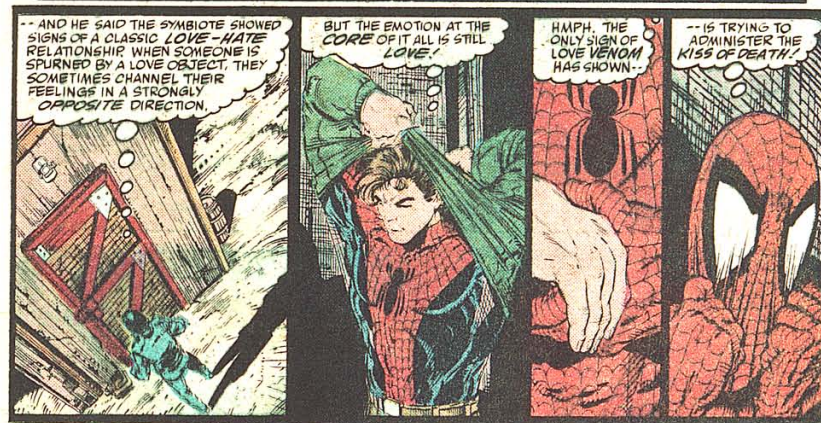
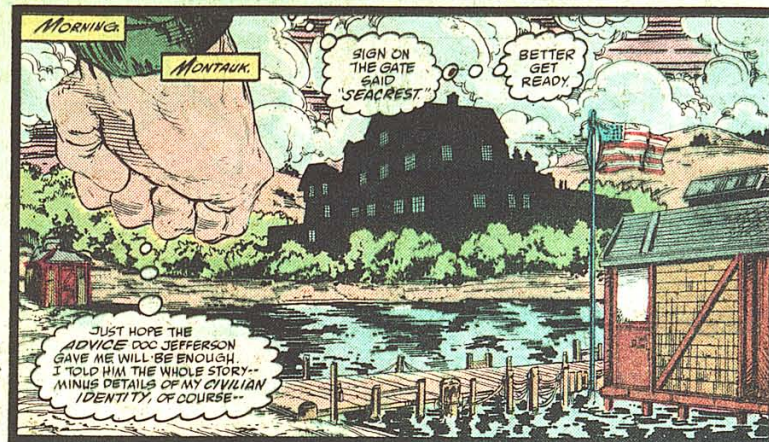
BASIC SET INCLUDES TWO SPINJAS, TWO POWER WINDERS AND ONE ARENA. ADDITIONAL SPINJAS SOLD SEPARATELY. © 1991 PARKER BROTHERS.

THE SEARCH FOR A SOLUTION
WANDERS THROUGH EVENING,
LEADING AT LAST TO THE
SOUTH BROOKLYN
PSYCHIATRIC FACILITY--

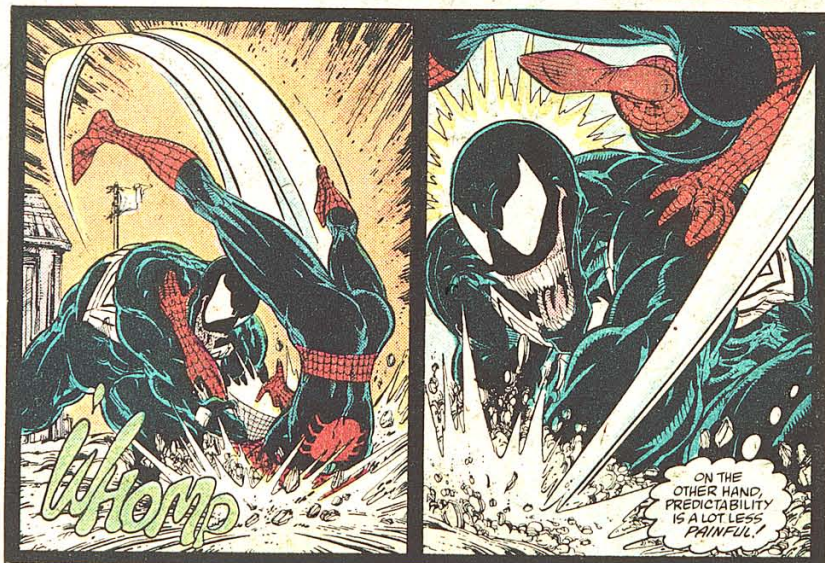
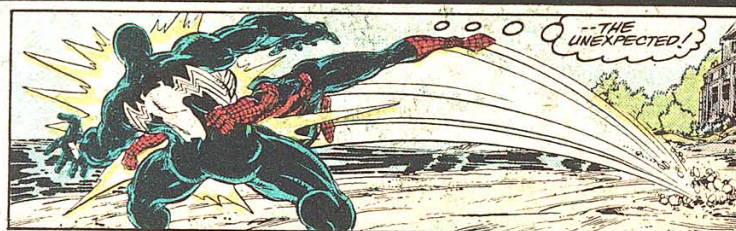
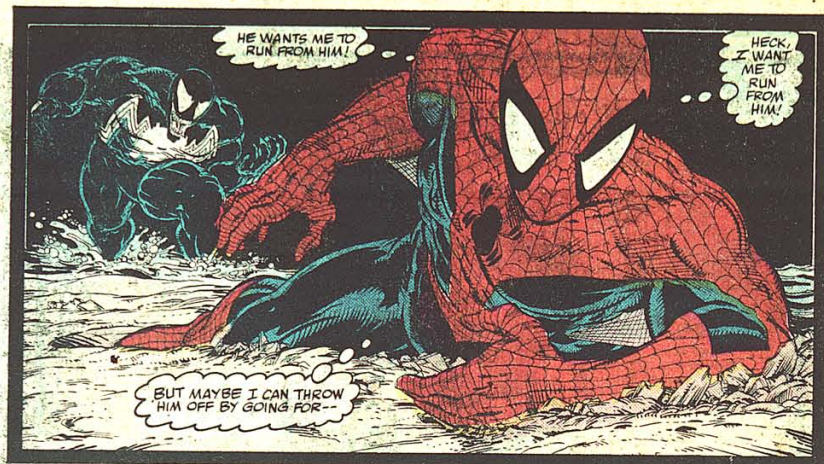
-- WHERE DR. CHARLES
JEFFERSON CONCLUDES
HIS USUAL 11-HOUR WORK
DAY--



18



19



20

Available for the first time in the U.S.A.!

Steve Jackson
presents
FIST
Fantasy Interactive Scenarios by Telephone

A New Dimension in Fantasy Gaming
DIAL
1-900-321-3478

The World of F.I.S.T.

FIST is an exciting new concept in fantasy gaming! Simply pick up your Touch-Tone telephone, dial 1-900-321-3478 and experience a dungeon adventure which **YOU** control! **YOU** make the decisions which direct your adventure by dialing numbers, as you compete for the **REAL GOLD** awarded monthly.

The creatures and deadly traps which await you are brought to life with dramatic sound effects. Hear the **ROAR** of the **FLESH EATER** as you lock swords, the **SIZZLE** of the **FIREBALL** bursting towards you, the **CHINKING** of the **GOLD PIECES** you will find hidden in the Demon's Prince's underground dungeon.

Enter FIST's **Monthly Competitions** - where the most skillful adventurers will win **REAL GOLD PIECES!**

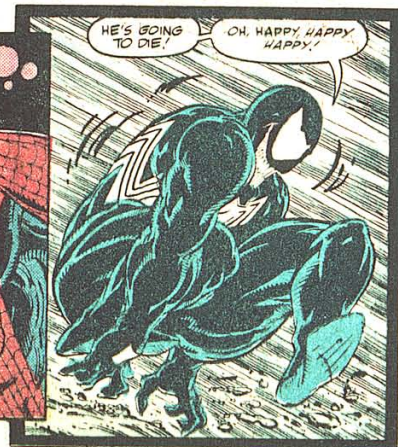
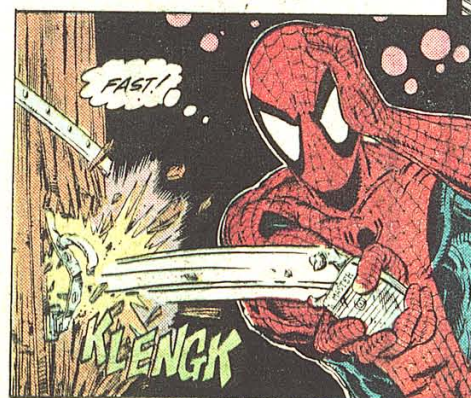
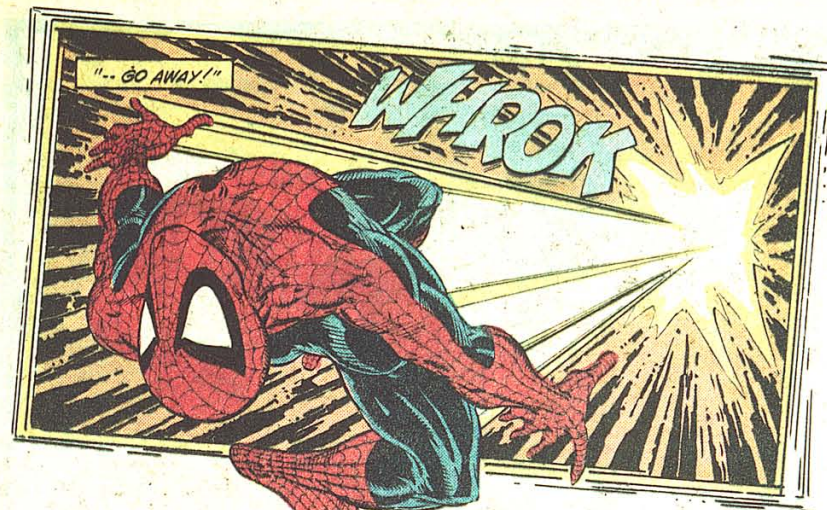
Hints on Play

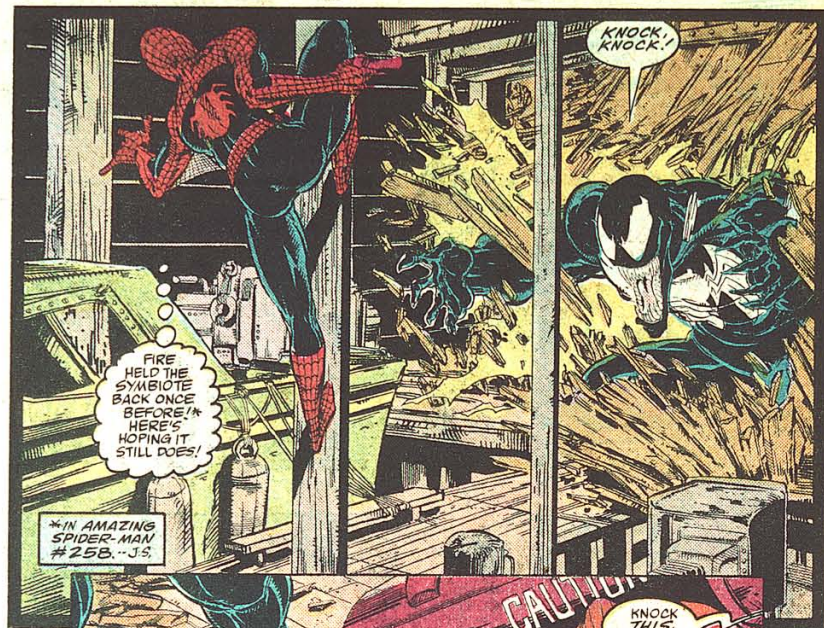
- Keep a pencil and paper handy to track your choices.
- Dial 0 to hear the previous message.
- Dial 9 to store your character in **LIMBO** for your next visit. *Limbo saves time and money!*
- Send in for your **free starter pack** for more information. Mail a stamped, self addressed, large manila envelope to: FIST, c/o Computerdial, 747 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.

NATIONWIDE DIAL

1-900-321-3478

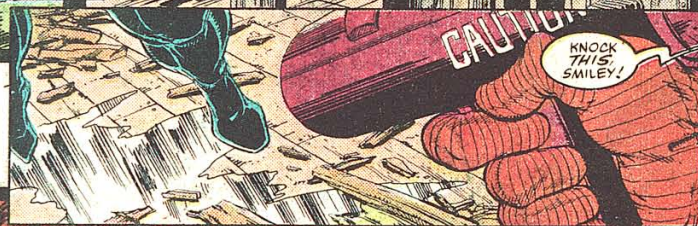
Available in the 212, 718, 516, 914 areas.
All calls charged at \$7.75 per minute.



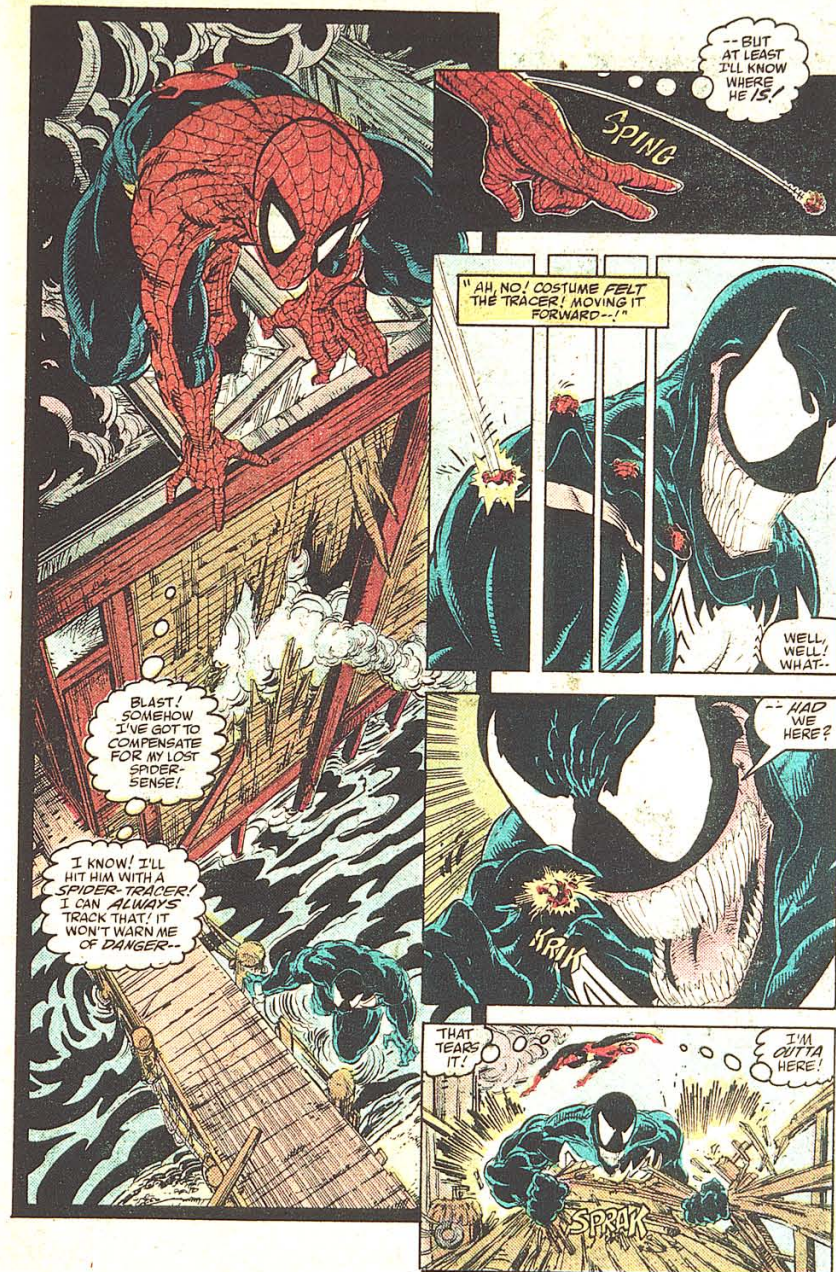


FIRE
HELD THE
SYMBIOTE
BACK ONCE
BEFORE! *
HERE'S
HOPING IT
STILL DOES!

*IN AMAZING
SPIDER-MAN
#258...J.S.



WHAT AN
AMUSING--



I KNOW! I'LL
HIT HIM WITH A
SPIDER-TRACER!
I CAN ALWAYS
TRACK THAT! IT
WON'T WARN ME
OF DANGER--

THAT
TEARS
IT!

I'M
OUTTA
HERE!

-- HAD
WE
HERE?

WELL,
WELL!
WHAT--

"AH, NO! COSTUME FELT
THE TRACER! MOVING IT
FORWARD--!"

SPING

-- BUT
AT LEAST
I'LL KNOW
WHERE
HE IS!

MARVEL BULLPEN BULLETINS

ITEM: We've always said that comics weren't just for kids, and it looks like the rest of the world is finally catching on! The latest convert to the Marvel message is none other than MTV, the superpopular all-music cable station. Already they've run reports regarding **DAMAGE CONTROL**, **Tama Janowitz's** cameo appearance in **SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #144**, and **Epic's AKIRA** and **STRAY CATS**. We're really excited about this and feel we should do everything we can to encourage such good works. You might want to either write or call the swell folks at MTV and tell 'em to keep the

Pro file: DWAYNE McDUFFIE

Assistant Editor on: Special projects like the Marvel press posters, movie and TV adaptations, including **INDIANA JONES** and **THE LAST CRUSADE**, **WHO FRAMED ROGER RABBIT?**, **THE X-MEN** cartoon graphic novel, **The Punisher** movie, **A NIGHTMARE ON ELM STREET**. Custom comics, toy tie-ins and anything that isn't a regular monthly comic.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Write on the **DAMAGE CONTROL** Limited Series; the **DEATH-LOK** Bookshelf Limited Series; a **CAPTAIN MARVEL** serial for **SOLO AVENGERS**; a **SHE-HULK** Graphic Novel; a **GIANT MAN** serial for Marvel Comics Presents; and the upcoming **MORTON DOWNEY JR.** black-and-white comic (you think I'm kidding, don't you?).

My hobbies are: Physics, reading, scowling, pushing my luck, spiraling into depression, getting and losing unusual jobs, sneaking past the "Guardian Angels" who won't let me into my apartment building (and what's the deal with those hats they wear?). Are they supposed to be members of the Raccoon Lodge, or what?; watching movies, whittling.

The single work which I am most proud of is: All things considered, pretty disappointing.

My pet peeves are: Dead.

My place of birth is: Detroit, Michigan.

My greatest accomplishment outside the comics field is: Really quite impressive. Remind me to tell you about it sometime.

My oddest habit is: Approved by the Comics Code Authority.

CHECKLIST

MARVELOUS MAGS ON SALE RIGHT NOW!

CAPTAIN AMERICA #356
DAREDEVIL #269
SEMPER PAR #9
WEST COAST AVENGERS #47
G.I. JOE SPECIAL MISSIONS #24
WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #53
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #25
EXCALIBUR #11
SENSATIONAL SHE-HULK #5
G.I. JOE EUROPEAN MISSIONS #11
THE NTH MAN #1—John Doe is the incredible NTH MAN—the ultimate warrior! And only he can stop World War III! Written by LARRY HAMM, penciled by RON WAGNER, inked by FRED FREDERICKS
SOLO AVENGERS #21
ALF #18
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #318—Wait till you see the all new SCORPION! Written by DAVID MICHELINI and illustrated by TODD McFARLANE
GROO THE WANDERER #54
HEATHCLIFF #39
THE NEW MUTANTS #78
ALPHA FLIGHT #73

THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK TO THE MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE Limited Series #2—From CHANCE to EXCALIBUR, the history, powers and all-new illustrations of your favorite heroes and villains!
ST. GEORGE #7
WOLVERINE #10
SILVER SURFER ANNUAL #2—The first chapter in the "Atlantis Attacks" saga!
THE WAR Limited Series #3
MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #77—Special preview of the new NICK FURY AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. series, plus more information on all the titles listed here!
THE INCREDIBLE HULK #358
MARVEL TALES #228
AVENGERS #306—Cover-to-cover action as CAPTAIN AMERICA, THOR, SHE-HULK, QUASAR, BLACK PANTHER, GILGAMESH, SUB-MARINER, and the WEST COAST AVENGERS battle for their lives against an army of LAVA MEN! Written by JOHN BYRNE, penciled by PAUL RYAN, inked by TOM PALMER
CONAN THE BARBARIAN #221
DAMAGE CONTROL (Limited Series) #4—It

the final issue of the Limited Series, **DAMAGE CONTROL** tries to repair Professor Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters. But things get a bit...well, sticky! Written by DWAYNE McDUFFIE, penciled by ERNIE COLON, inked by BOB WIACEK
G.I. JOE #89
PUNISHER #22
SILVER SURFER #26
UNCANNY X-MEN #247—An X-Man dies as the team tries to stop NIMROD! Written by CHRIS CLAREMONT, penciled by MARK SILVESTRI, inked by DAN GREEN
MARVEL COMICS PRESENTS #26
MARVEL MAGAZINES
THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #162
MARVEL BOOKSHELF
NICK FURY vs. S.H.I.E.L.D. Trade Paperback—The acclaimed Limited Series collected into one stunning volume! NICK FURY is marked for murder by S.H.I.E.L.D.! Written by BOB HARRAS, penciled by PAUL NEARY, inked by KIM DEWILDER, new cover by BOB LAFRANZ

STAN'S SOAPBOX

Big news, gang! Remember NBC-TV's recent Hulk show which guest-starred **Mighty Thor**? Well, it was such a big hit that they're planning to do a lot more of them, and get this, each new Hulk special will co-star a different mighty Marvel super hero! I wanted to make a contest out of it, wanted to ask you to guess who our next TV star would be, but this news is too exciting to hold back. The next Hulk special will co-star—are you ready for that?—none other than **Daredevil**, everyone's favorite man without fear!

And here's something even more exciting! If the show is as big a smash as we expect it to be, the network'll spin off **Hornhead** into his own series.

Marvel Comics coverage coming! So let's all lift our heads, face front, and shout "I want my MTV!" just as loudly as "Make Mine Marvel!"

ITEM: If you needed even more evidence that mighty Marvel was taking over the world, allow us to fill you in on our latest venture in the ever-thriving computer games field. Marvel is teaming up with Paragon Software to produce first in a series of fast-paced, interactive comic arcade adventures called "Spider-Man and Captain America in Dr. Doom's Revenge." The best part is that there's an

actual Marvel comic packed in with each game! This collector's item issue is scripted by Dapper Danny Fingerhut and penciled by Rip-roarin' Rich Buckler, and sports a totally excellent cover by John Romita Jr.'s pop! The version for IBM PC and compatibles ships in March, while the Commodore 64 version is scheduled for a June release. Don't say we didn't warn you!

ITEM: Congratulations to Al and Judy Milgrom on the birth of their third child, Benjamin. Hmmm... Ben MILGROM... Ben GRIMM... Nahhh!

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Albert Brooks, or was that Avery Brooks?

The reason I got into comics was: So I could hit Wolverine in the face with a pie.

People who knew me in high school thought I was: Probably just joining.

My favorite performers are: Miles Davis, Richard Pryor, Robin Williams, Billie Holiday, Oscar Peterson, Ornate Coleman, Katherine Hepburn, Peter O'Toole, George Clinton, the Smothers Brothers, Return to Forever and the Firesign Theater.

The last good book I read was: Sagan: *His Psychotherapy and Cure by the Unfortunate Dr. Kessler*, J.S.P.S. by Jeremy Levin. I'm in the middle of Tip O'Neil's *Man of the House* and it's good, too.

The last good movie I saw was: Another Woman... Well, I liked it.

Biggest influences on my work include: Ralph Ellison, Paddy Chayefsky, Woody Allen, Fran Lebowitz, Toni Morrison, Robert Altman, Preston Sturges, Harold Ramis and the Lee Brothers. Stan and Spike.

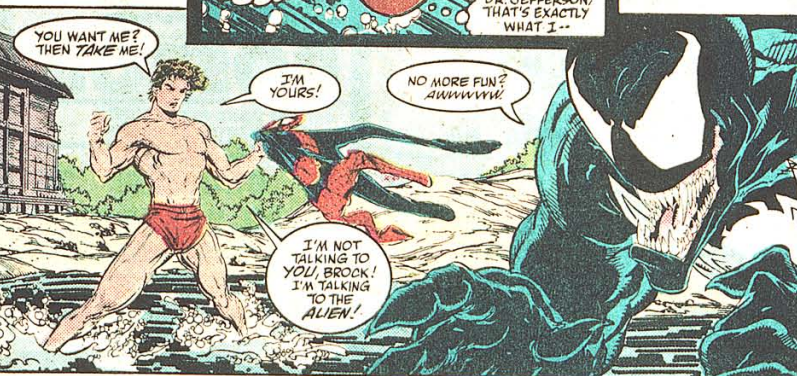
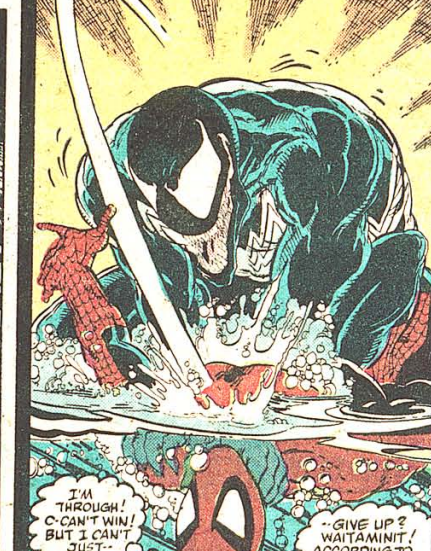
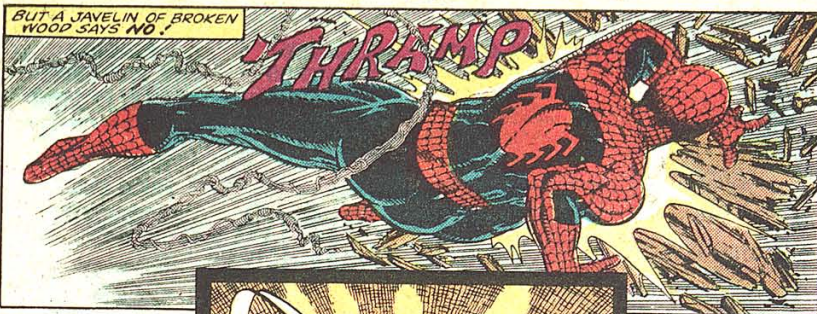
My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: To write THE FANATIC FOUR.

The worst part of my job is: Telling people what I do for a living and listening to them tell me, "Really? I just love Superman."

When nobody's looking I like to: That's none of your business. Besides, all us kids do it. It didn't stunt my growth, either.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: That deep down, I'm every bit as terrifying as I look.

BUT A JAVELIN OF BROKEN WOOD SAYS NO!





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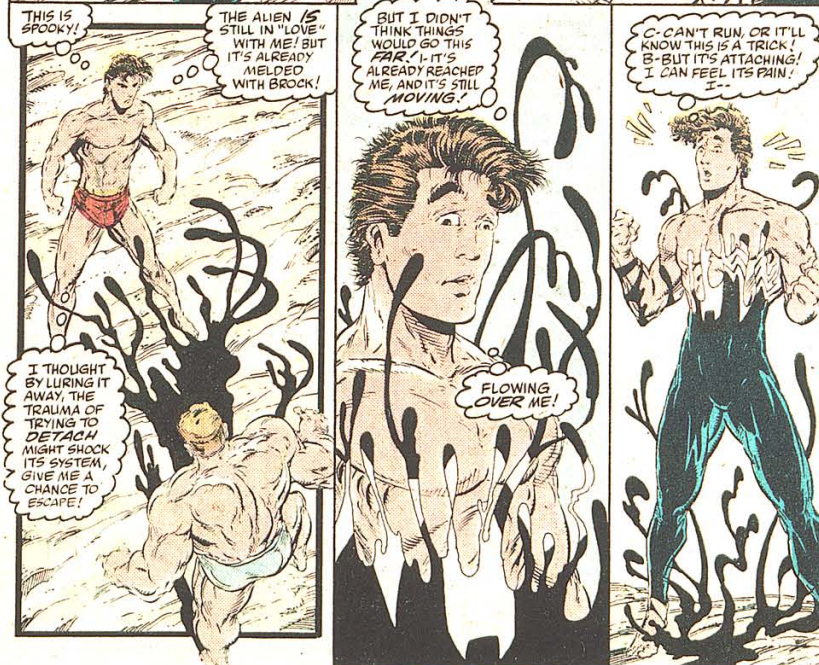
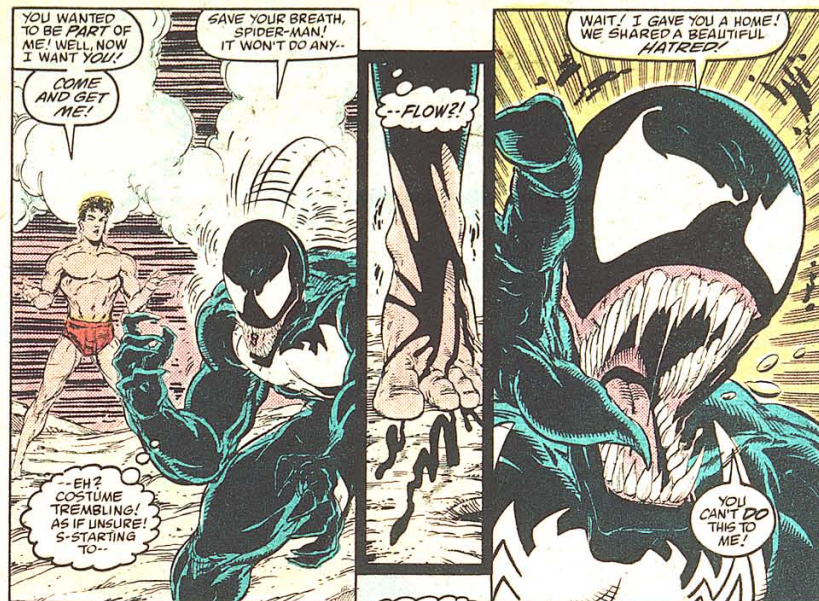
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JIM SALICRUP
ARCHERD
GLENN HERDLING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: All letters considered for publication must include your name and address, though we will withhold that information upon request.

Dear Marvel People,

RE: No-Prize, Issue #308.

I and 50 million readers noticed that your cover was blown! Yeah! Blown by poor spelling! "Kidnaped," not "kidnaped." Two Ps, like in Peter Parker's initials. Your stories are great, but your spelling—tut-tut.

SOLUTION: A gimmick to attract readers? A survey of well-taught grammatically able readers? To save text space on your beautifully drawn covers?

Rachel Schneider
201 Hanson Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Dear Jim and Glenn,

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #308 boasted an eye-grabbing, spooky Todd McFarlane cover, with the moon beckoning. "Who Kidnaped Mary Jane?" Uh, I hate to kick you guys when you're down, but the big mystery to me was "Who Misspelled KIDNAPED?" Is your typesetter taking spelling lessons from the Hulk? A cover isn't just a pretty picture, it's a sacred trust between authors and readers. And as my sixth grade teacher, Sister Rita John, once said, "Remember, good spelling is next to Godliness!"

My other quibble is on page 21. We see the Taskmaster looming above the headstones of Spider's best artists: Ditko, Romita Sr. & Jr., Gil Kane, Ross Andru, and Ron Frenz. But where's KEITH POLLARD? He's a great Spider artist and deserves to be buried alongside Marvel's greatest! Hey, if he's still around, how about having him draw WEB OF...?

Pat Jankiewicz
2137 Erin Ave.
Upland, CA 91786

We're happy to have Alex Saviuk drawing WEB right now. Pat, we would have included many more of our favorite Spider-artists in the graveyard scene, but there is only a limited amount of plots in a cemetery. You'll be glad to know that Keith Pollard has been assigned to pencil the new S.H.I.E.L.D. series on a regular basis. As for the accusation of misspelling, maybe this letter from Erik Cox will educate you and Rachel Schneider...

Dear Spidey Crew,

I have finally decided to write a letter to the creators of THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #308. I was also very impressed with the art and story of this one, folks.

Now that I have your attention, I want to ask a few questions:

First off, why does Peter keep his Spider-costume in the top drawer of his dresser (page 3, panel 3)? I mean, the police were in his apartment snooping around and what if one of them looked there?

Later, when Jonathan Caesar strikes MJ in the room right below Peter and when he was swinging by the only lit window on the Bedford Towers, why didn't his Spider-sense go off?

The subject of a No-Prize has kept me wondering what it was for a long time, and I believe that I just might have earned one (I hope!). I was reading my comic book and my mother pointed out that the word on the cover that means "to seize and carry off forcefully" had two Ps.

Well, I pondered over and over and finally looked it up. The dictionary said that the word could be spelled one of two ways: Kid-naped or -napped! This is probably a weak try, but nevertheless a try! The reason I even bothered is because the No-Prize "policy" is as follows: To point out something that looks like a mistake but isn't because Marvel doesn't make mistakes. So please consider my point because I really would like to know what one is. So until Aunt May falls head over heels in love with Spidey. Make Mine Marvel!

Erik Cox
14747 6300 Rd
Montrose, CO 81401

Ordinarily, Erik, such a response would not be worth a No-Prize since we did not commit anything resembling a mistake. But since you were the only writer on this letters page who bothered to look up the word "kidnaped" (or "kidnapped") you deserve some recognition. So expect your No-Prize in the mail.

Meanwhile, we think Rachel Schneider and Pat Jankiewicz owe us a No-Prize for pointing out a mistake that didn't exist! Remember, Rachel, 50 million readers noticed that your letter was blown! And, Pat, we're contacting Sister Rita Jean to rap your knuckles with a ruler because you didn't apply your dictionary skills!

Dear Mr. Salicrup,

As an adult who recently began purchasing a few, select comics, I have been very pleased by THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN issues #303-310. The plots are intelligent; Spidey doesn't mope around as much as he used to, and the stories are finally developing in new directions. For instance, Peter and Gwen married; Peter returned to school, etc. I do, however, have one web to pick with the Spidey crew.

Mr. McFarlane's renderings of Gwen (and Silver Sable in #303) are artistic masterpieces which somehow combine the rounded fullness found in Rubens' works with the long, lean, leggy, and slim look favored today. The creative (and terrific) energy invested in each panel would keep Iron Man fully charged through several years of hard crime-fighting. Everything's fine and dandy so far. But look at the other characters' faces!

In #308, for instance, on pages 13 thru 15 Peter's face looks either bobby or droopy. (Although in the fourth panel on page 15, the glint of determination in Peter's face makes all the difference.) Wise up guys! A hero with a face like a lump of half-chewed bubblegum? Not inspiring!

A detail I noticed while writing this: In #308 (Jonathan Caesar was holding Gwen hostage) her face was deformed the same way as Peter's face is when he is under stress. On page 4, third panel her features sag downward in resignation. On page 6, the third panel, her features are drawn downward in a grimace, making her face look bobby. In the second panel on page eight, Gwen's face bears a resigned look that erases the details of her features, making her face look bobby (with a Jimmy Durante nose yet—not a feature one usually associates with Gwendoline the Gorgeous).

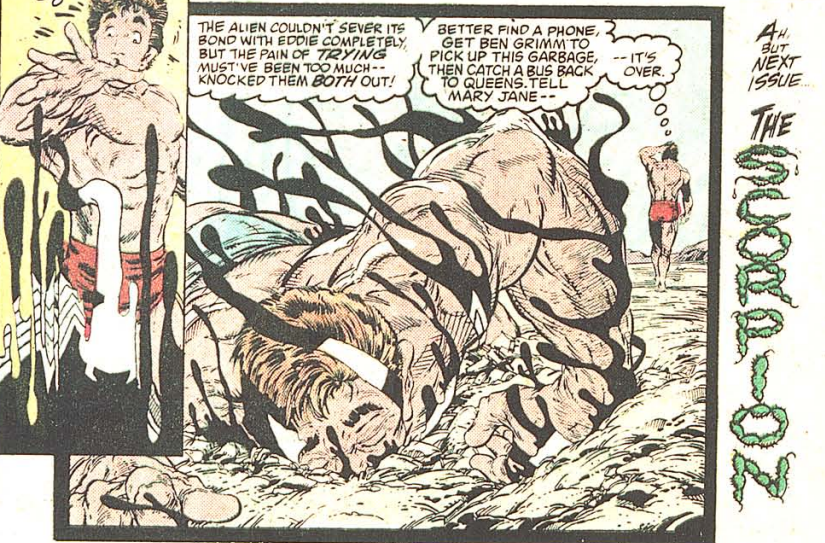
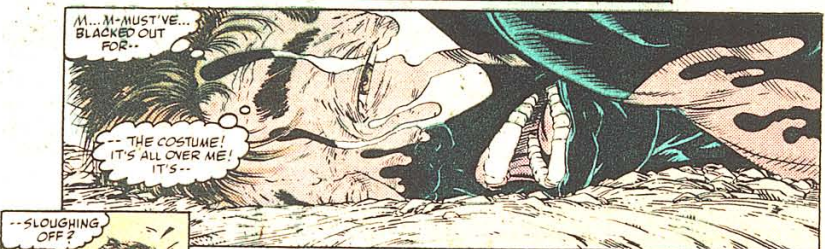
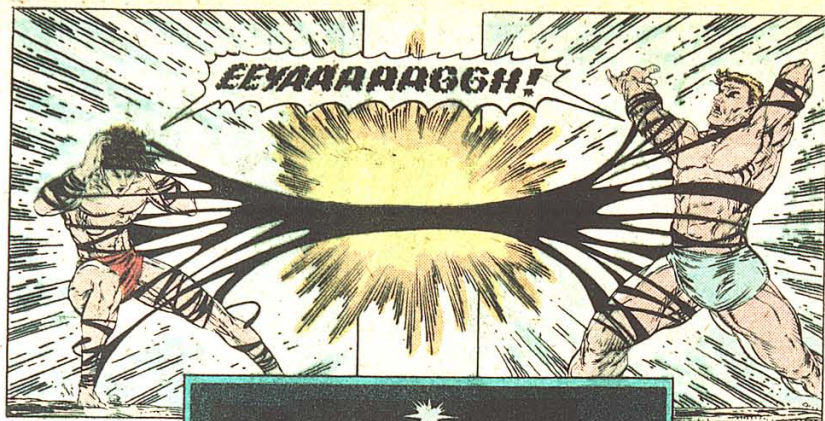
Apparently these facial distortions are the result of a McFarlane's attempts to pack every possible pinch of pulpit emotion into each teenie-tiny panel. The usual victim is poor, pitiful, pilloried, and pushed-around Peter. But I know that you can manage to pack plenty of panache into your pretty pictures without turning Peter's profile into putty: The first panel on page 2 in issue #308 Peter's expression manages to convey sadness, anger, and determination while still looking noble (not to mention normal). All you have to do to get me off your back is to enhance the atmosphere in Spidey-land by not exaggerating Peter and Gwen's features.

Making mine Marvel (while holding a finger over those funny-looking faces!)

Albert E. Edmonds
803 North Third Street
Pottsville, PA 17901

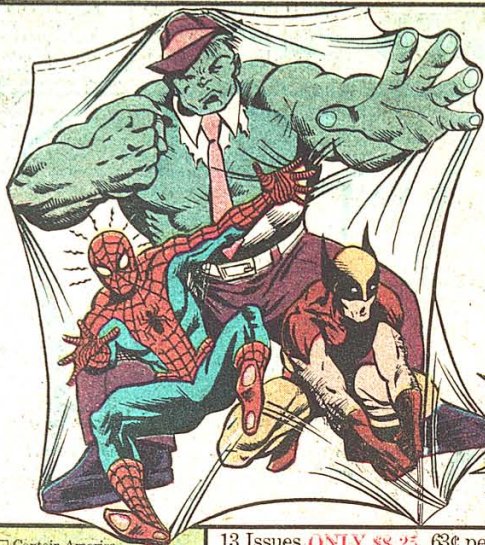
Sigmund Freud would've had a ball with your letter, Albert! We must've pushed you over the edge when the Green Goblin killed Gwen Stacy. Yes, Albert, it's time to face reality—Gwen is dead. The reason "Gwen" doesn't look right to you is because that's not Gwen at all. Peter married Mary Jane Watson. Seriously, though, you must have loved Gwen as much as Peter to make such a boo-boo. Do we get a No-Prize?

NEXT ISSUE: He's back, and he's sporting a new, deadlier tail. Be here as the Scorpion dances with our wondrous web-slinger to the tune of "Sling Your Partner." Also, check out SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #152 for the origin of the mutant werewolf brothers, the Lobos! Then, in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #53, the Lobo Brothers attack the Arranger and he looks to Spidey to save him!



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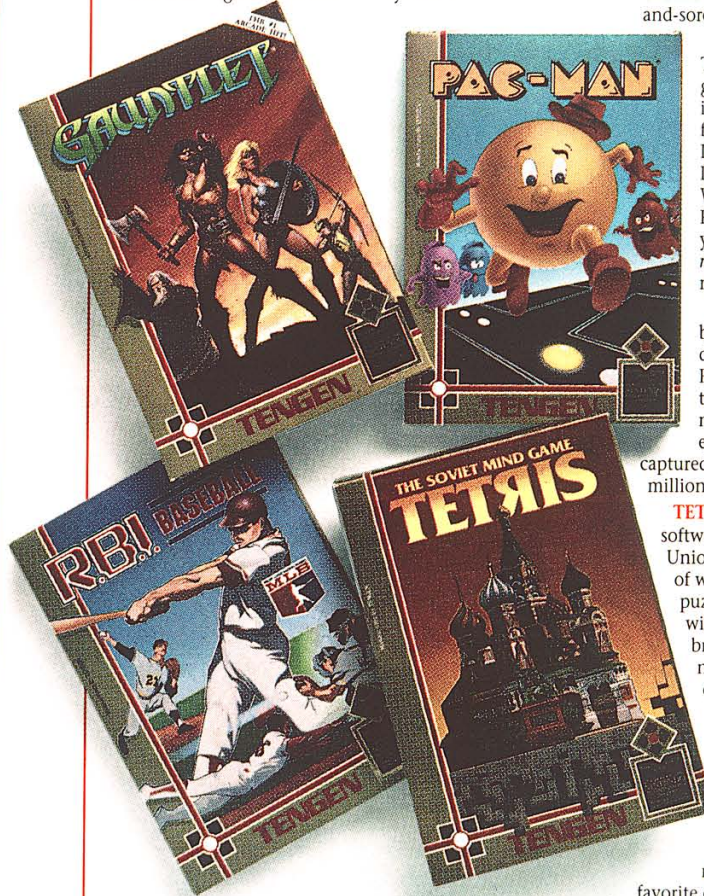
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